

ERP Fact Sheet

April 2007



Air Force Seeks Public Comment on Laboratory Soil and Debris Cleanup Plan

AIR FORCE TESTS MOON ROCKET MOTOR AT AFRL -
Deluge water turns to steam during a 1960s test of a Saturn V rocket engine at Test Stand 1-B. Test Stand 1-B is Site 318 in the Air Force's cleanup program at Edwards Air Force Base.

The Air Force is asking the public to comment on proposed cleanup plans for 18 sites with contaminated soil and debris at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Edwards Air Force Base. The Air Force Research Laboratory is in the eastern half of the base, south of the off-base community of Boron. None of these sites can be accessed by the public without permission from the Air Force.

An Air Force report entitled *CERCLA Proposed Plan for Cleanup at the Soil and Debris Sites, Operable Units 4 and 9, Air*

Force Research Laboratory, Edwards AFB, California describes plans for the environmental cleanup at the sites.

Public comments will be accepted on the plan until May 15, 2007.

This document describes and compares cleanup or restoration alternatives proposed by the Air Force in agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board.

This Fact Sheet describes how Edwards Air Force Base is proposing to deal with soil and debris contamination at 18 Air Force Research Laboratory sites.

Printed copies of the Proposed Plan are available at the four information repositories listed on page 4. The document is also available to the public on the internet at <http://bsx.edwards.af.mil/environmental>. Choose the **Documents for Public Review** folder and download **CERCLA Proposed Plan for Cleanup at the Soil and Debris Sites, Operable Units 4 and 9, AFRL, Edwards AFB.**

Soil and Debris Sites at the Air Force Research Laboratory

Site	Description	Proposed Alternative
Operable Unit 4		
Site 7	Test Area 1-46 Beryllium-Contaminated Earth Piles	No Further Action
Site 13	Closed AFRL Landfill	Further Monitoring with Land Use Controls
Site 26	Former Fire Training Area	No Further Action
Site 36	Test Area 1-21 Former Wastewater Evaporation Tank	Land Use Controls
Site 150	Building 8451 Former Waste Evaporation Ponds	No Further Action
Sites 153 and 396	Dry Wells Associated with Buildings 8419, 8421, 8425, and 8431	No Further Action
Site 166	Building 8240 Former Waste Discharge Area and Removed Waste Oil	No Further Action
Site 167	Test Area 1-46 Beryllium Firing Range	Land Use Controls
Areas of Concern 170 and 171	Building 8595 Indoor Vapor Degreaser Pit and Indoor Sump	No Further Action
Site 172	Building 8595 Outdoor Waste Sump	No Further Action
Site 312	Test Area 1-14 Poly-chlorinated Bi-Phenyls (PCB) Spill Area	Clean Closure Through Excavation
Site 318	Test Area 1-120 Catch Basin and Evaporation Pond	Land Use Controls
Site 329	Test Area 1-46 Former Wash Rack and Oxidation Pond	No Further Action
Operable Unit 9		
Sites 6 and 113	Abandoned Mine Shafts 1 and 2	Land Use Controls
Site 115	Test Area 1-100 Missile Silos 1 and 2	Capping with Land Use Controls

The 18 sites are identified in the table on page 2 and shown in the map on page 3. Most of these areas are close to the active part of the Air Force Research Laboratory. Each of them is described in detail within the *Proposed Plan*.

The contaminated soil and debris at the 18 areas are related to rocket engine and flight testing. Two of the areas are abandoned mine shafts that predate the Air Force. The mine shafts were used by the Air Force for hazardous waste disposal between 1959 and 1967.

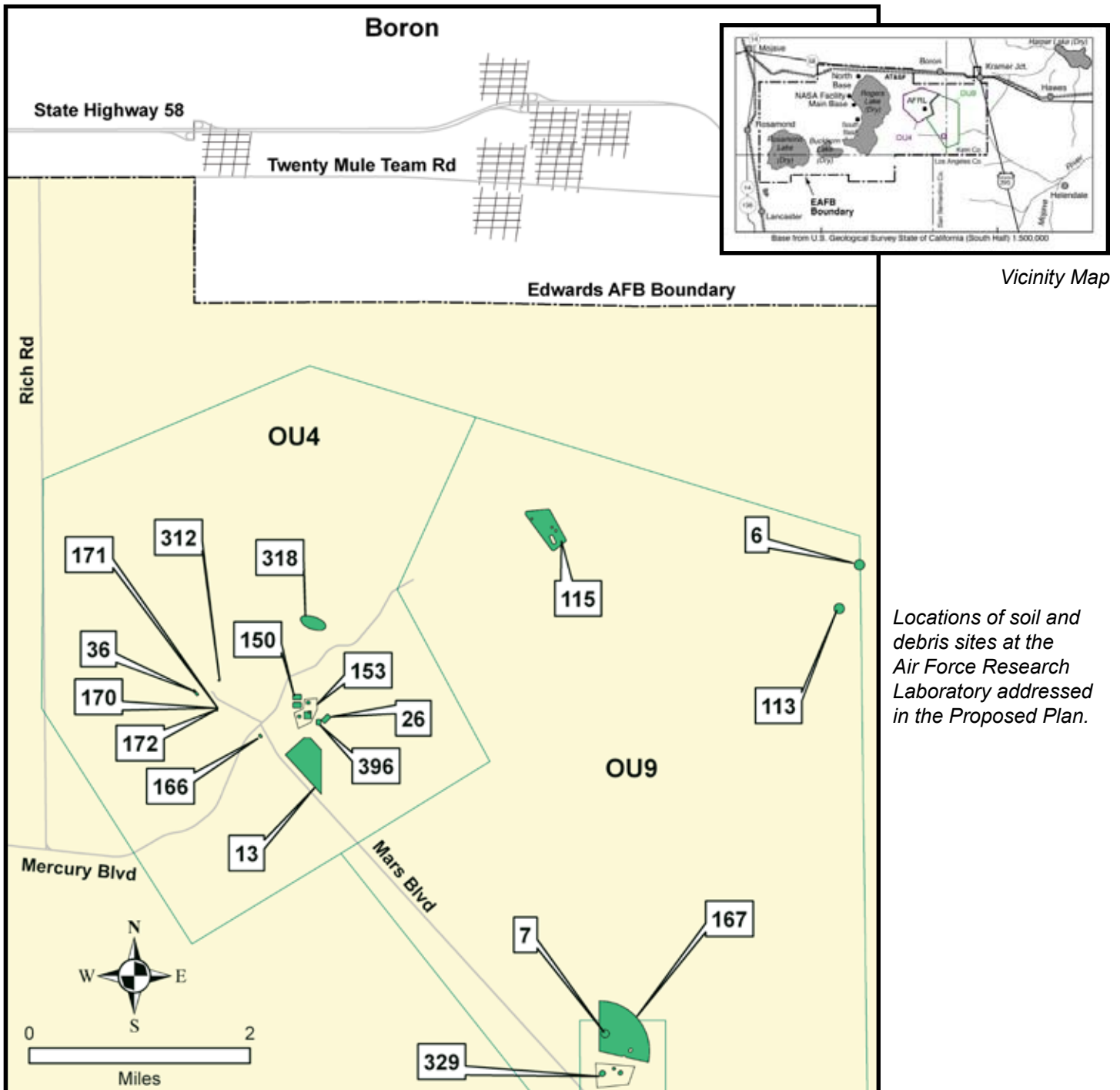
The soil contamination ranges from petroleum and solvents to exotic rocket fuels like perchlorate and beryllium. Hazardous buried debris was found at four sites. Plans for monitoring or cleaning up contaminated groundwater beneath the soil are being addressed in several other *Proposed Plans*.

The Air Force is dividing the 18 areas into two categories: eight *further action* sites and 10 *no further action* sites. The further action sites are hazardous enough that cleanup or future land use controls are required to protect people and the environment. The no further action sites are areas that have already been cleaned up or where tests show so little contamination that they are not hazardous to people or the environment.

Alternatives

Alternatives for cleaning up the further action sites include excavation and disposal off-site; capping sites (putting a cover over them); land farming; and no action. (No action is always included to compare against the other alternatives.)

Many of the alternatives include land use controls. Land use control means the Air Force will restrict future use of the areas.



The costs of alternatives for cleanup and future control of the land range from zero dollars (Alternative 1 - No action) to \$278 million (over 30 years; Alternative 3 for Site 318).

The *Proposed Plan* evaluates all of the alternatives against nine criteria, or standards, set up in the federal environmental regulation called the *Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation, and*

Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), or Superfund law. Table 5 of the *Proposed Plan* compares the alternatives to the nine criteria.

Public Participation and Comments

The Air Force is providing information regarding the cleanup of these soil and debris areas to the public through the Restoration Advisory Board, four

information repositories, the administrative record file for the site, and the monthly publication *Report to Stakeholders*.

Meetings for the public and laboratory workers will also be held on May 1, 2007. The off-base public meeting/availability session will be held at West Boron Elementary, 12300 Del Oro Street, in Boron, starting at 5:30 p.m.

More Information Available

The Air Force encourages the public to learn more about these 18 areas and cleanup activities already completed and proposed for the future. All documents that the base used to make decisions about the cleanup for these soil and debris sites at the Air Force Research Laboratory are in the base's administrative record. To view the full administrative record, contact Gary Hatch during regular business hours at:

95 ABW/PAE

Attn: Gary Hatch

**5 E. Popson Ave., Bldg. 2650A
Edwards AFB, CA 93524-8060**

Phone: (661) 277-1454

Fax: (661) 277-6145

E-mail: 95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil

**Hours: By appointment only,
Monday through Friday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

A subset of decision documents is available at the four Information Repository locations listed in the green box above.

To Make a Comment

Comments on the *Proposed Plan* may be made at the public meetings or by mail, e-mail, or fax your comments. Send comments to Gary Hatch using the contact information above. A form is provided at the end of the *Proposed Plan*, but written comments are accepted in any form. Comments must be received no later than May 15, 2007.

How to Get More Information

For more information on the soils and debris contamination at the AFRL, technical documents may be reviewed at the following Information Repositories.

Edwards AFB Library
5 W. Yeager Blvd.
Building 2665
Edwards AFB, Calif.
(661) 275-2665

Los Angeles County Public Library
601 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, Calif.
(661) 948-5029

Kern County Public Library
Wanda Kirk Branch
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, Calif.
(661) 256-3236

Col. Vernon P. Saxon, Jr.
Aerospace Museum
26922 Twenty Mule Team Road
Boron, Calif.
(760) 762-6600

Please join us for a
Public Meeting/Public Availability Session
to discuss the

**CERCLA Proposed Plan for Cleanup at the
Soil and Debris Sites, Operable Units 4 and 9,
Air Force Research Laboratory,
Edwards AFB, California**

May 1, 2007 • 5:30 p.m.

West Boron Elementary School
12300 Del Oro Street
Boron, California

For more information on the meeting, please contact Gary Hatch at (661) 277-1454 or e-mail 95abw.pae@edwards.af.mil.

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